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DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

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MEMORIAL TO JANE A. DELANO

TEN thousand pamphlets have been prepared for distribution by the Jane A. Delano Committee, setting forth the outline of the proposed memorial, asking for suggestions as to its form, and including a subscription pledge to be filled out by the recipient.

Many suggestions as to the form which the Memorial should take have already been received, chief among which is that of a portrait statue against a bas-relief descriptive of the nature and spirit of nursing, to be placed in the grounds of the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross, Washington.

The estimated cost is \$50,000, of which the nucleus, raised during the spring of 1919 by Red Cross nurses then in France, is already in hand. If every nurse in the Red Cross Nursing Service, now numbering 38,000, would pledge one dollar, this sum would soon be realized. It is hoped by the Committee that the fund will be complete by January 1, 1922.

The Jane A. Delano Memorial Committee includes: Lucy Minnigerode, chairman; Harvey D. Gibson, treasurer; Mrs. William Church Osborn, Mrs. Henry P. Davison, Mrs. August Belmont, Mrs. Frank V. Hammar, Mrs. L. E. Gretter, Mabel T. Boardman, Amy Alexander, Mrs. John Lynch, Anna Kerr, Georgia M. Nevins, Anna C. Jammé, Anna C. Maxwell, Mary E. Gladwin, Mrs. Lenah S. Higbee, Major Julia Stimson, Helen Scott Hay, Edna L. Foley, R. Inde Albaugh, Mary K. Nelson, Florence M. Johnson, Jane Van de Vrede, Grace Bentley, Minnie H. Ahrens, Olive Chapman, Grace Harrington, Lillian L. White, Clara D. Noyes, General Merrite W. Ireland, Admiral E. R. Stitt, General Hugh S. Cumming and C. Powell Minnigerode.

Pledges may be sent to Harvey D. Gibson, 26 Broad Street, New York City, or to the Division Director of Nursing nearest the donor's home, or to R. Inde Albaugh, National Nursing Headquarters, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

RECALL OF THE RED CROSS CAPE

THE following order from the office of the Surgeon-General to all Hospital Divisions was also received by the Director of Nursing Service of the American Red Cross relative to the recall of the Red Cross capes and caps:

It is considered advisable that the Red Cross cap and cape now used by nurses in the United States Public Health Service should be returned to the Red Cross and the nurses in the Public Health Service provide themselves with the uniform cap and cape of the Service.

All nurses, therefore, having in their possession Red Cross caps and capes are directed to return these to the Red Cross October 1, 1921. It is directed on that date that nurses in the Public Health Service shall don the cap and cape of the Public Health Service.

(Signed) H. S. CUMMING, *Surgeon-General*.

It is a matter of very great regret to the Red Cross Nursing Service that the United States Public Health Service has felt it necessary to take this action. The cape has become greatly endeared to the nurses themselves because of its traditional and sentimental value and moreover its withdrawal may react upon the efficiency of the Service.

THE COLUMBUS CONVENTION

With a registration of nurses bordering closely upon 400 and the place of the nurse in the Red Cross organization plainly indicated in practically every phase of the programme, the success of the National Convention in Columbus, October 4 to 8, from the standpoint of the nursing profession was one of the distinctive features of a thoroughly satisfactory convention.

The Nursing Service figured conspicuously in nearly every aspect of the programme while the pageant, the most moving spectacle of all, undoubtedly derived its chief inspiration from the scenes in which the Red Cross Nurse,—self-effacing, untiring, unflinching,—ministered to the wounds and afflictions of mankind.

Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, taken up in a session managed by Chapter delegates, registered a gratifying amount of interest in every part of the country and every phase of life. Both in the papers read and in the general discussion had upon the subject, the importance of this course as a means of preparing our American women and girls for the emergencies that are the almost universal lot in every walk of life,—the minor problems of health and disease,—was reiterated. That it may become a part of every High School curriculum, provided for in the school budget, was the hope unanimously expressed. Public Health nurses heartily endorsed the course as one of the best bulwarks of safety and health conservation, creating as it does groups of persons in the most remote communities who have been specially prepared by means of the instruction to carry on the message of public health service, not to mention its constructive value to the individual and the family unit. The programme of the Junior Red Cross also touched upon the advantages of Home Hygiene and

the school nurse, while the Health Service was largely concerned with the work of the Public Health nurse.

The Home Service programme, with its project of health clinics for ex-service men, again linked up the nurse with his care in the United States Public Health Service hospitals.

A feature of the Nutrition Service was a reunion of dietitians who had served during the war. The section meeting on nutritional service was largely concerned with a nutrition programme that could be carried on successfully either in such communities as were able to maintain specialized nutrition work, or in chapters where such specialized service was not available.

The session on Public Health Nursing was largely attended and chapter delegates participated intensively in the discussion. Miss Wald reviewed the Public Health Nursing Service of the Red Cross from its small beginning to its present proportions. Miss Fitzgerald gave a delightful talk on the foreign programme, and Annie W. Goodrich, in an inspiring address, emphasized the importance of establishing suitable opportunities for education in order that the health programme, not only of the Red Cross, but of the country at large, might be carried on with success. To this end she urged the coöperation of the chapters and bespoke also their coöperation in the student nurse recruiting movement. Letters were read from the three Surgeons-General, that for the Navy being read by Commander Bruce. On account of their work in Europe it was impossible for Helen Scott Hay and Mary S. Gardner to attend.

The Ex-Service Nurses' Reunion was a most inspirational meeting, being attended not only by the nurses but also by men and women from the chapters, who crowded in, interested and eager to pay tribute to the nurses. At the general meetings held in the Coliseum, nursing was again well represented.

But it was undoubtedly the Pageant that showed most dramatically and most convincingly the place and the prestige of the Red Cross Nurse in the lives and memories of men. Here her mission of healing and consecrated service shone forth in episode after episode as the noble array of heroic women was marshalled before the immense audience.

Beginning with the story of the Good Samaritan, the theme of the Pageant,—the ministrations performed in the name of humanity for earth's afflicted and diseased, was sustained with remarkable beauty and imagery. Historic episodes in the life of Queen Helena, the Crusaders, Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton were strikingly presented, the scenes paving the way for the spectacular battle scenes of the late World War. Here the ambulances, with nurses and doctors

to the fore, were shown ministering to the wounded at First Aid Stations. Followed the Overseas Personnel, nurses in the various uniforms belonging to their respective services, leading the procession, the gray of the public health nurse, the white indoor uniform, even the raincoat and rain hats, vying with the historic scarlet-lined Red Cross cape in the imposing array. As the nurses marched forward, unostentatious, poised, self-effacing, the great amphitheater's close-packed audience rose as one man, and roars of deafening applause rolled out above the assemblage.

"This is the personification of service in its widest and deepest sense,—the Red Cross Nurse!" exclaimed one of the on-lookers, carried away by the inspiring spectacle. And his declaration unmistakably voiced the sentiments of all that vast throng.

In further recognition of the nursing profession, the role of "Mercy" was given to Miss Noyes, as Director of the Red Cross Nursing Service, who occupied the stage together with "Love," "Courage," "Sacrifice," "Hope," "Purity," "Humanity," "Columbia" and "Community." Nurses were also given parts in practically all of the remaining episodes, visualizing the work of the Public Health, Disaster Relief and Home Service personnel.

The success of the Pageant surpassed even the most sanguine expectations. It is not too much to assert that a more striking revelation of the righteousness of the ideals of the nursing profession or of the value of the nurse's service to humanity has never before been presented in this country, while the responsiveness of the audience proved conclusively the confidence the people at large repose in the Red Cross Nurse.

One of the factors that contributed substantially to the success of the convention and the comfort of those who attended was provided through the thoughtfulness of the Local Committee, and consisted of a Nurses' Headquarters where a registry was maintained and a first-aid room where tea was served daily. Nearly 400 nurses registered here, a most satisfactory showing. The committee in charge included Marie Brockman, chairman; Bertha Love, secretary; Mary Gannon, Margaret Rogers, Elsie Ruffer, Marie M. Schoenherr, Catherine Smith and Emma L. Warr. Miss Anderson of the Lake Division looked after the daily demonstrations in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick and Miss Jammé's committee,—as did, in fact, every other committee,—contributed materially to the excellence of the entire nursing service programme and exhibit.